



THE 'BURNIAN

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A farewell to Blackburn's President Mim Pride

by Taylor Hess

As Mim makes her exit from Blackburn, The 'Burnian wanted one more talk with her to reflect on her long and successful career as Blackburn's first female president.

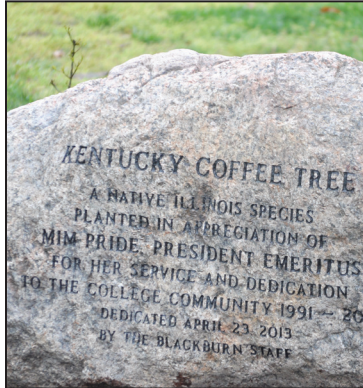
Mim had known about Blackburn since 1972 when she was working at Berea College for a man named Bill Ramsay, who is often referred to as the "Godfather of Work Colleges." After one of the students from Berea accepted a position at Blackburn in the early 1980's, the student convinced Mim to come work for Blackburn as the assistant to the President of Campus Life. At the end of Mim's first year, Blackburn's President David Brown decided to take over advancement and go on the road. Mim became Vice President for Administration. By 1991, Brown left and recommended Mim for the presidency. That was when Mim became Blackburn's president.

Mim liked Blackburn from the beginning but many changes were needed. It was struggling financially and in need of facilities. When asked what she brought to the college Mim responded, "I've been very stubborn about the Work Program, spending a lot of time working with the Work College Consortium lobbying for money." It was also



PHOTOS COURTESY OF PR

A Kentucky Coffee Tree was planted in honor of Mim's 21 years of service, along with an inscription on a rock near the tree in front of Ludlum Hall.



important that a liberal arts education remain at the heart of the educational experience Blackburn provides.

Blackburn positively impacted Mim as well. "Before ... I was noted for a pretty hot temper," which she learned to manage over the years. Blackburn also allowed her to travel and to live and work with diverse people including students across racial, ethnic, and age divisions. "I work with a lot of great people," Mim explained, "so the decisions that come to me are never easy."

Being Blackburn's first female president was not easy either. Mim recalled, "There were people who would tell me to my face that it wasn't appropriate for a woman to be president. There were donors who said no one will give money to you because you are a woman."

When asked what her favorite memories of Blackburn were, Mim remembered fondly, "They almost all have to do with times when it's been my privilege to watch people make ... big steps in their learning." Mim leaves students and faculty with some advice: "approach every experience, even the bad ones, with the expectation that there is something you can learn from it and use." She wants us in the Blackburn community to start talking to ourselves differently, ending her advice with, "This is an extraordinary institution that's offering an exceptional education. You have a right to be proud of it." As for her successor, Dr. John Comerford, Mim sees his arrival as a whole new beginning and encourages students to "be beaver proud!"

Creative writing competition held

by Sarah Collman

The Carlinville Writers Guild recently hosted a Young Writers Competition. The competition was open to all high school students in the Carlinville area, including home-schooled and alternative school students. The categories included Fiction/Short Story, Non-fiction/Personal Essay, and Poetry. An event featuring the winners will be held in the Olin Lecture Hall on the Blackburn College campus at 6.30pm on Monday May 13th. Cash prizes will be awarded to winners, with \$100 for the grand prize winner.

Blackburn College is co-sponsoring the event. Dr. Naomi Crummey said, "Robyn Woodside, a member of the Guild, reached out in the hopes of partnering with the department when she learned of our Creative Writing major.

I hope it's the beginning of a long and positive relationship between the English and Communications Department and the Carlinville writing community."

The Carlinville Writers Guild is a fellowship of writers from the Carlinville area that usually meets on alternate Saturdays at the Carlinville Public Library. "The Writer's Guild launched the contest last spring in order to support and encourage young writers in the Carlinville area," says Dr. Crummey.

As a not-for-profit organization, the Guild's mission is primarily to bring writers together to make each other stronger and more productive as individual writers and to strengthen the writing community.

Graduation ceremony preview

by Haley Welch

As the end of the school year approaches, the preparation for Blackburn's baccalaureate and graduation ceremonies is at full speed. With the speakers lined up, the caps and gowns successfully ordered and the speeches written, it is almost time to bid farewell to the graduating class of 2013.

Baccalaureate will commence on May 17 in Bothwell Auditorium, and will feature a timely speaker for the occasion. Reverend Pride (President Pride's sister) will be addressing the graduating class as they embark upon the world. Although Reverend Pride has addressed the school at baccalaureates in the past, this occasion will be especially significant due to her sister's retirement at the conclusion of the school year.

Graduation will be held on May 18 on the lawns in front of Hudson, and like baccalaureate, will be filled with addresses from prominent figures at the school. The primary speaker, President Pride, will not only be wishing the graduates luck as they leave Blackburn, but also saying her own goodbyes as she too leaves the school. In addition, senior class president

Robert Hausmann will speak to his classmates and those attending the ceremony.

Professor Roy Graham, who has been the presiding marshal at Blackburn for twenty years, will not only be leading the seniors to the platform on May 18, but has also had a much deeper involvement in the graduation proceedings. The marshal, who is a senior faculty member at the school, ensures that all of the important details of graduation are covered, encompassing everything from getting the needed information from graduating seniors for the ceremony to contacting Physical Plant to set up for the occasion.

Graham described small changes that will be made this year in regards to awards presented at the ceremony. Typically, a distinguished alumni award is presented, but this will not be the case this year. "What we will have is an outstanding senior award that will be coming from the alumni," Graham said. Despite that change, Graham also stated the ceremony will stick to tradition. "We try to preserve some sense of heritage here. We believe certain rituals are important."

2013 Education Action Research Fair

by Michelle Lee

On May 6 the Education Department hosted a dinner and exhibition of the Spring '13 student teachers' Action Research Projects in the ADRs. Dr. Terry Rainey explained, "Each student teacher had to find something in his or her classroom to research and then test."

Projects included Renee Young's physical education experiment "Will Four Weeks of Static Stretching Increase Sit-And-Reach Test Scores?" Young described her investigation, stating, "I had my first hour students do a static stretch ... everyday for fifteen seconds. At the end of the project, I retested them and saw an improvement of at least two centimeters in each student." Tara Allen tested

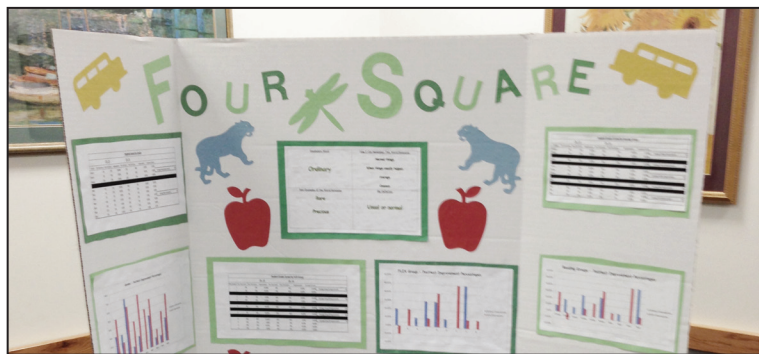


PHOTO COURTESY OF DJ RUDD

DJ Rudd's Action Research project on display in the ADRs.

the effectiveness of digital storytelling by juxtaposing two classes in which one class used posters to demonstrate science concepts and another class used Powerpoint to explain concepts. DJ Rudd and Daniel Bonnell tested the effect of supplementary vocabulary in science and math courses while Heidi Pustmueller and Maureen Wise examined writing and comprehension skills using tools such as

graphic organizers and question-answer-relationship models. Sarah Sudkamp looked at the impact of virtual literature circles, in which she encouraged students to Skype and blog about stories they had read.

For the student teachers, the projects lasted most of the semester and acted as the Education Department's version of senior seminar.

Mueller Humanities Fellowship recipients announced

by Michelle Lee

The winners of the Mueller Humanities Fellowship were announced April 17. The three winners are Megan Adamski, Haley Welch, and Sarah Prather-Hunter. Founded by BC graduate Dr. C. Barber Mueller, the Mueller Humanities Fellowship is a fund for students majoring in the Humanities or history departments to pursue educational opportunities during the summer. Professor Craig Newsom describes this scholarship as an opportunity for students to “pursue self-enrichment projects related to their major.” Each candidate must submit a design for a project, which often includes travel. A budget must be submitted to explain how allotted funds would be used. Based on the thoroughness of the submission, the Mueller committee, comprised of faculty members in the Humanities division, makes the selections.

Adamski will be attending the HOW Design Conference in San Francisco, CA. Adamski explains, “The

Design Conference that I am attending offers career management tools, creative thinking strategies and keynote presentations from the industry’s leading experts and consultants.” Welch will be traveling to New York City to tour journalism and media sites. Her stops include NBC studios, a Flash Fiction writer’s workshop, a United Nations visit, as well as various museums. NYC is a great opportunity for a Communications major and aspiring journalist because it is home to many newspapers and magazines. Prather-Hunter will attend a ceramics workshop at the Archie Bray Foundation center in Montana. Hunter “will create pieces of work and engage in creative group exercises that will inspire questions and dialogue.” She will also have the opportunity to work with well-known artists Chris Staley and Nancy Blum.

After completion of their projects, the three recipients will give presentations on their experiences next fall.

BC bids farewell to retiring faculty and staff members

by Michelle Lee

After long years of service, Blackburn will say goodbye to three faculty and staff members this year. The retirees are Ms. Carol Schaefer, Dr. Terry Rainey, and Mr. Roger Fenton.

Head librarian Carol Schaefer has spent twenty-three years at Blackburn and has been a role model for the library workers, including current student manager Mary Chamberlain. “Carol was a terrific boss. I could honestly talk to her about anything. She knows so much about the library and she allowed me to learn my own lessons in the job.” Over the years, Schaefer has helped countless students research their seminar projects and lent a hand at editing papers. Though not often in the “limelight”, as Chamberlain characterized it, Schaefer’s contributions to the college have been influential.

Education Department faculty member Dr. Terry Rainey will end his career at Blackburn after ten years. After spending thirty years as a secondary teacher, Rainey explained, “the quest to finish my professional-teaching career by training prospective teachers is what brought me to [Blackburn]. Teaching is the noblest profession of them all. Blackburn gambled on me, and I am ever so grateful.” During his time here, Rainey



PHOTO COURTESY OF PR

Terry Rainey (left) and Roger Fenton (right) will retire at the end of the 2010-2013 academic year. Not pictured is Carol Shaefer.

loved “being associated with an outstanding group of students, faculty, staff and administrators.” Education major Allison Bruss said, “[Dr. Rainey] has the ability to change people’s lives, sharing the excitement of learning and teaching with all of his students.” Rainey shared a few final words of advice: “I’ve learned that the keys to success in life feature a belief in God, not taking myself too seriously, keeping it simple, a positive outlook on life and surrounding myself with a supporting cast of friends, acquaintances and colleagues who make up for my deficiencies.”

The retiree with the longest history at Blackburn is Associate Dean of Work, Roger Fenton. “Roger is the ideal role model, and



PHOTO COURTESY OF CARLY VUNETICH

moreover, a wonderful human being. I have learned such a vast amount of technical knowledge from him regarding the Work Program and my duties, but he has also taught me so much about life,” said student marshal and general manager Tim Erton. Fenton was once Director of Residence Life, supervisor and sponsor for Habitat for Humanity, as well as Dean of Discipline. As one of the biggest advocates of the Work Program, he has been committed to providing students with opportunities otherwise not found at other colleges. Of his departure, Erton said, “though we will have to find a person to fulfill his duties, we cannot replace Roger no matter how hard we try.”

Attendance low for second Senior Seminar Symposium

by Clayt Scheller

On Saturday, May 4, five senior seminar projects chosen by faculty reviewers to be the best were on display in DCC Commons from 9 a.m. to noon. For the second consecutive year, students, faculty and staff were all invited to partake in informal discussions of each project. Unfortunately, the event’s timing precluded many from attending.

Judges Dr. Greg Meyer, Professor Paul Gross (who temporarily stood in for Professor Geraldine Albins) and Dr. Victor “Jake” Miller each represented their respective divisions – Humanities, Natural Science and Social Science. Throughout the morning they visited each presenter and took notes on each seminar. The three projects they consider the best will be revealed during Blackburn’s 144th Commencement on Saturday, May 18.

The majority of the presenters (Jerry Barringer, “LittleSilverSwitch”; Aaron Donoho, “INTRADoS: Intelligent Traffic Directing System”; Ryan Welch, “Phasic



PHOTO BY BETH WELCH

Senior Ryan Welch poses for a photo near his Senior Seminar Symposium piece.

Intersegmental Coupling and the Effects of FMRFamide on the Oscillators of the Peripheral Nerve Circuitry of the Medicinal Leech”) represented the Natural Science Division, but a few (Cindy Campbell, “Thomas Hardy – A Study of the Author’s Presence in ‘The Return of the Native’ and ‘Jude the Obscure’”; Amanda Johnston, “See you in Game: A Positive Look at Video Games”) represented the Humanities. No Social Science projects were on display.

The decision to host the symposium so close to finals – not to mention on the morning after Bar Walk – severely impacted attendance.

“[The symposium] is a really good idea,” says Professor Paul Gross, “and it should be promoted. Participation should be required within seminars.”

Regarding the symposium’s sparse attendance, Gross notes that no information regarding those who presented their projects was included in any promotional materials. He claims that if students would have known who would present, more would have showed up. Not mentioning their names is, by Gross’ estimation, “a big mistake.”

Regardless, everyone who presented can nearly rest easy. You’re almost there, seniors!

Rock dedicated to the memory of Josh Ramza

by Traci Kamp

At 11:00 a.m. on April 24, Student Worker Appreciation Day, a rock was placed in the planter beneath the scoreboard on the varsity soccer field. The rock is dedicated to the memory of the late Josh Ramza, who passed away early in the Spring 2013 semester.

Students and staff gathered around the scoreboard with heavy hearts in the rain after the rock had been placed. Millie Abeln and Katrina Miller escorted Janet Meininger, Ramza’s mother, to the varsity field to see the memorial.

Meininger reached forward and felt the etching in the rock, reading “Tomorrow is Never Promised, In Memory

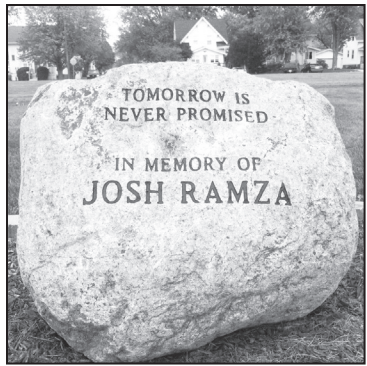


PHOTO BY TRACI KAMP

of Josh Ramza.” The rest of the attendees were requested by Abeln and Meininger to reach forward and touch the rock. A group photo of all of the attendees was taken with the memorial, and then another with Meininger.

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From freshmen to seniors: The changes along the way

by Taylor Hess

At The 'Burnian, we asked several seniors to describe how they have changed during their time spent at Blackburn. We received many responses, but here are just a few!



Kristie as a Blackburn College Freshman

PHOTOS COURTESY OF KRISTIE ORDNER
Kristie as a Blackburn College Senior

"When I started at Blackburn I was unbelievably shy. I broke out of my shell and have become an outgoing and confident person. I did a lot of growing here at Blackburn and learned lessons the hard way but I wouldn't have changed it for the world. I went from being that quiet and shy girl that no one really knew to the confident and outgoing person that I am today and I am so thankful to Blackburn for that."

-Kristie Ordner, Biology



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHRISTI BECKMEYER

(Top) Christi Beckmeyer as a Freshman. (Bottom) Christi her senior year.

"I've become a better leader because of the Work Program. I've realized how important communication, organization, and self-motivation are. Plus, the connections you make are wonderful!" -Christi Beckmeyer, Biology Pre-Med and Other Health Professions



Brock as a Blackburn College Freshman



PHOTOS COURTESY OF BROCK EDDINGS
Brock as a Blackburn College Senior

"When I first came to Blackburn, I did not realize how I was acting and how immature my behavior was. Now, I realize what is acceptable and what is frowned upon. Another big difference in my character is my work ethic. Coming to college and working for four years really helped me reach my full potential and realize that no matter what you do take pride in that job" -Brock Eddings, Criminal Justice

2013 Honors Banquet and awards ceremony

by Michelle Lee

The annual Honors Banquet was held on April 22 in DCC. The evening's meal included what sophomore Miranda Jacobs described as an "informal cordon bleu." Following dinner and Dr. Aper's opening remarks, Student Marshal Tim Erton addressed the audience, urging them to face their fears and not to resist change. The Blackburn Voices, led by Dr. Elizabeth Zobel, performed "The Look of Love" and "You've Got a Friend in Me" before the award announcements.

Interim Athletic Director Heidi Heinz presented the Athletics Awards, which included both athletic and academic achievement prizes. Athletic Award recipients included Paul Kline, Tara Allen, Ben Beckwith, and Briana Rae for both performance and GPA accomplishments. Afterward, the Student Leadership awards were presented to General Manager and Student Marshal Tim Erton, and Resident

Director Amber Byrley. BC Alumnus Dr. Richard Russell presented the first ever William M. Hudson Centennial Work Program Award to President Mim Pride for her contributions to Blackburn's Work Program on its 100th anniversary.

When President Pride took the stage to present the Retirement Recognitions, the audience chanted Dr. Terry Rainey's name and gave Roger Fenton a standing ovation. Dr. Rainey is retiring from the Education Department after ten years at Blackburn, and Roger Fenton is retiring as Associate Dean of Work after twenty-eight years of service.

Surprises from the night included the E. Ann Reichmann Outstanding Adjunct Award and Student Senate Organization of the Year Award. The Outstanding Adjunct Award was presented for the first time last year, but was named after long serving adjunct Ann Reichmann this year. The award went to Dr.

See Tsai Chan, who was met with a standing ovation from the choir. The Student Senate Organization of the Year Award went to The 'Burnian and Co-Editor Haley Welch accepted the award on behalf of the paper.

The night proceeded with the thirteen Beginning Scholar Awards, as well as various awards from the Art, Business, and Performing Arts Departments. Dr. Aper joked, "almost none of the Beginning Scholars [were] present because they [were] too busy studying." Sophomore Haley Welch won the Annual Creative Writing Contest, as presented by Dr. Ren Draya. Professor Natasha Casey presented the final prizes to members of The 'Burnian for journalistic achievements. Dr. Aper concluded with closing remarks. To everyone's relief, the evening did not last as long as some of the predictions made by the annual faculty pool.



Shawn as a Blackburn College Freshman



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SHAWN WATKINS
Shawn as a Blackburn College Senior

"I would have to say the biggest change would be getting involved in different clubs and organizations than before. I have also become more willing to take on responsibilities."

-Shawn Watkins, Business Management

Blackburn College timeline: 2010-2013

by Clayt Scheller

As Blackburn's class of 2013 prepares to graduate and move into the Great Unknown, it seems like an appropriate time to recap some of the major campus developments over the past four years.

In the spring of 2010, Blackburn welcomed Sherrie Graham as the Vice President for Institutional Development. She would step down from that position the following semester, but not before effecting some positive change.

Also in the spring semester, a storage closet (Bothwell 123) was converted into WBVR HQ. In February all of Carlinville went without water for days after a water-main malfunction. Tough break! (I'll show myself out.)

In April, BC alum Dr. Paul Bingham '73 lectured on his groundbreaking cancer research and insight into human evolution. Written Communication and Leadership majors were also added during this time. Finally, Res Life and Security merged into Campus Security and Safety.

Fall 2010 saw the annual Stoddard haunted house event canceled due to a hazardous mold buildup in the residence hall. Kristi Nelms became Director of Institutional Research and the volleyball team pulled off their second consecutive winless season.

In April 2011, Communications Professor David Curtis left the college to work with children suffering from autism. Glen Krupica became the new Manager of Development Operations; Summer Orientation kicked off during the summer.

Blackburn was named "#2 Best Value" in a *U.S. News* Best Colleges ranking that fall; the college has proudly worn that badge ever since. The Communications and English departments merged, opening up various writing-oriented fields of study. Best of all, the volleyball team finally ended

its 54-game losing streak!

Blackburn hired Suzanne Krupica as Director of Career Services that winter. Professors Natasha Casey and Edward Boamah gained U.S. citizenship, and the college welcomed aboard Director of Marketing and Public Relations Pete Oswald and Economics Professor Dr. Ed Muller.

During spring 2012, Blackburn College celebrated its 175th birthday and founder Gideon Blackburn's 240th. Challacombe Hall went co-ed, ending the long reign of the "Kings of Campus." In addition to establishing the Wellness Living Learning Community on first floor Butler, a slew of new faculty and staff joined the college: Dr. Pamela Danker, Dr. Lori Lammert, Professor Paul Gross, Professor Noel Harnetiaux and Dr. Kate Roark.

An Environmental Studies major was added in the fall of 2012. In addition, Sodexo switched from serving Pepsi products to Coke ones and Jewell Hall underwent major renovations before turning into an all-freshman residence hall.

The autumn concluded with a small crime spree. A microwave was somehow stolen from the women's wing of first floor Butler and the Clothesline Project for Domestic Violence Awareness Month was torn down by ne'er-do-wells. December brought big news: John Comerford would replace Miriam "Mim" Pride as Blackburn's president the following year.

2013 has been rough going – Blackburn bid sad farewells to student Josh Ramza, Dr. Scott Hawley and former Director of Admissions Mary "Cos" Cosner. Furthermore, vandalism in the VAC ruined a student's artwork and some design equipment. At least the baseball team did the Harlem Shake.

How much of this sounds familiar, graduates? Good luck out there!

A welcome to Erica Brown

by Ron Smith

Meet Erica Brown, Blackburn's new campus chaplain.

Brown received a Bachelor's degree in English with a minor in religion at Mt. Union University, a Master's in Literature from Bucknell, and a Master's of Divinity from the University of Chicago.

Before coming to Blackburn, she served as a senior pastor in Villa Park (a suburb of Chicago) and an assistant pastor in Danville, Illinois (east of Champaign-

Urbana). Her path cultivated empathy for the questions of faith and spirituality that people have, especially college students, and that is why she went into ministry.

Erica is here as a Pastoral Counselor and Chaplain for all students, not just Christians. Regardless of your belief in a different religion or no religion at all she is here for everyone. Erica is on campus everyday so feel free to drop by her office, located in Butler 23 or call her, extension 4371.

For a full profile of Erica Brown, pick up our first issue in the Fall 2013 Semester.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PR

New majors in the Education Department

by Dr. Kelly Chaney

Blackburn's Education Department is not just about teacher education anymore. We have recently added two new majors: Educational Studies and Human Resource Development.

The Educational Studies major provides opportunities for further study in one of three areas: children's literature, research and writing, and paraprofessional preparation. Students who select this major take core education courses, such as Introduction to Education, Educational Psychology, Diversity in Education, Educating Children with Exceptional Needs, and Ethics in Education, in addition to courses specific to their chosen track, i.e., children's literature, research and writing, and paraprofessional preparation. The Educational Studies Research and Writing track is now also offered as an approved minor.

The Human Resource Development major and minor will be available starting next fall. Human Resource Development is the process of improving individual performance in organizations, such as those found in business, industry, or education. The main components of human resource development include training and development,

coaching, mentoring, and organizational development. Developing skills and knowledge to assist employees with the task at hand, to develop skills for future jobs, and to meet professional goals are just a part of the human resource development process. Students who enroll in this major will take courses in writing and from a variety of areas in the social sciences, including business, economics, psychology, sociology, leadership, and education. Some of the new courses added to the education department to meet the needs of this major include Adult Learning, Methods of Education and Development of Personnel, Developing Learning Materials, and Evaluating Personnel Learning and Performance.

The Education Department has become a very busy place, as we continue to build on our teacher education program and embark on new adventures with our Educational Studies and Human Resource Development majors. Perhaps W.E.B. Du Bois stated it best: "Education is that whole system of human training within and without the school house walls, which molds and develops men."

Sustainability planning and action at Blackburn

by Dr. Jeff Aper

In 2009 the Blackburn College Sustainability Task Force presented a comprehensive plan to improve the college's performance in areas such as energy efficiency, recycling of solid wastes, reduced consumption of resources like paper and water, and greater general awareness of these issues. This year we've reviewed our progress in achieving the goals set back in 2009.

Our work in the area of solid waste management has focused largely on recycling. Thanks to the work of our Recycling Crew (under the supervision of Dr. Arthur Darken) we recycled over 50 tons of solid waste (aluminum, glass, paper, and cardboard) from August 2009 through May 2012. We've also created the Leave It To Beaver freecycling store in Olin Hall and have done more to implement digital applications to reduce the amount of paper used for classes, meetings, and publications. From August 2009 to May 2011 we cut the number of photocopies made on campus by about one-third.

In spite of the fact that we have brought additional space into use since August 2007, our electricity use has stayed about the same, our natural gas use has declined, and we have stayed about the same as far as water consumption. We can each do a lot more to pay attention to things like turning off lights when they're not needed, being flexible about interior temperatures (not

expecting every room to be like a perfect day in Hawaii at all times), and minimizing our use of water (15 minute showers are not a requirement for the continuation of Western civilization).

In the area of transportation, one of the biggest steps forward this year is the purchase of a new 46 passenger activity bus. Though this new bus is larger and more powerful than any other college vehicle, it will achieve 10-20% better fuel economy than our current methods of transportation.

Our goal of improving indoor air quality is recognition that the environment includes more than just the outdoors. We've taken steps to minimize the use of pesticides in our buildings and have improved our processes for regularly seeing to the maintenance of heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems (HVAC) on campus.

Landscaping goals for campus include a shift to reliance on native plants. Dr. Jim Bray received a grant last summer in support of this goal and is teaching a class this spring focused on landscaping with native plants. Other goals include minimizing the use of petrochemical pesticides or herbicides on campus, and reduction of reliance on fossil fuel burning vehicles and equipment in grounds maintenance.

Our Food Service partner, Sodexo, has also been active in helping improve sustainability

on campus. Ms. Pam Cole, our Food Service Director, has implemented the use of a 500 cubic foot composting bin, a "Local at Lunch" program that features Illinois produced foods every Thursday, and new fixtures in the dish room that reduce the amount of water needed for washing dishes.

In the area of building construction and renovation, we've made good improvements in upgrading boilers and lighting around campus. A major achievement has been the construction of the new science building as a LEED-- Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design--certified building, which means that the building has met stringent standards for efficient resource use and reduced negative impact on the environment.

Blackburn's academic program shows some important changes related to the sustainability plan, most notably the creation of the Environmental Studies Major last spring, which includes an introductory course and courses about environmental issues in religion, philosophy, literature, history, economics, and political science.

There's a lot still to be done to bring Blackburn completely into the 21st century when it comes to sustainability and environmental awareness, but in just a few years we've made some important progress and are ready to take it even further in the years to come.

How to survive the real world

by Kayla Koyne

The first thing to remember is: don't spend all of your time worrying about things that you have absolutely no control over. No, that doesn't mean to put off job hunting until a month after you've left Blackburn then wonder why you are unemployed. Just don't give yourself an ulcer thinking about what you are going to be doing after graduation. It's life; just roll with it.

Second, remember that this is not the first major life-changing moment you've gone through so far. You survived the transition from high school to college; you can be just as successful going into this next phase of your life. As with any new experience, it comes with good and bad aspects. On the bright side, you probably won't have to share a dorm room the size of a shoe box with someone else and you can actually shower without flip-flops!



Finally, don't forget to enjoy the little experiences as you go forth into the next phase of your life. Instead of getting bogged down by the more stressful parts of life, make sure to take time to revel in the increased freedom and maturity that you've stumbled upon. Rely on the same ingenuity that you have used to make it through years of tests, midterms, and papers while in college to survive the world that awaits you. Happy living, my dear seniors!

Samantha Yoder

by Sydney Walsh

Samantha Yoder is a Communications major and Religious Studies minor, as well as the Resident Director of Butler Hall. She was recently hired at the Girl Scouts of Central Illinois as a membership specialist in Springfield where she will be working with Girl Scout troops in Sangamon, Macoupin, and Montgomery counties.

Her most memorable college experience was when she participated in Ashley Deibert's senior seminar project, a play called "Rock Revenue." The play allowed Samantha to dance with her friends, which she found fun

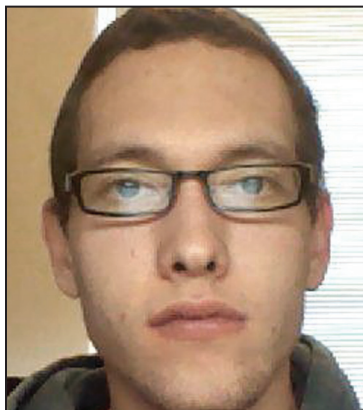
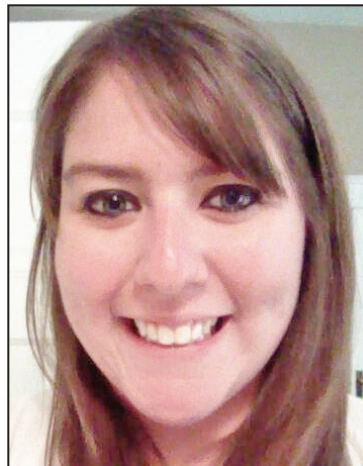
because she was able to act goofy.

Samantha chose Communications because it is something that influences her everyday life; she loves to learn about things that actually affect her. As a Communications major, she was able to learn about television, the internet and their histories, which was able to keep her attention for the last three and a half years.

Samantha is excited and nervous to graduate and be thrown into "real life." To Samantha, "real life" means having a job from 8-5 every day and having bills. At college she was able to have a sort of

safety net but now in "real life" she is going to be living in her own apartment, paying rent and other bills. To her it is a little nerve-racking. She is excited for the opportunities ahead of her, but also scared to leave the place she has called home for four years.

One of the important things she learned in college is to do what makes you happy. Samantha has some advice for those she is leaving behind at Blackburn: "You get what you put into Blackburn. Make the most of it and do not allow petty drama to get you down; surround yourself with positive people."



David Bone

by Christian Gragnano

Meet senior and soon to be Blackburn alum, David Bone. David has attended Blackburn for four years and is a double major in Accounting and Marketing, so chances are many of you have probably had him in one class or another. He's also been actively involved in the work program beginning in the business office his freshman year, a T.A. for the Business and Economics department his sophomore year, and the Community Service department his junior and senior years.

Despite his hectic school and work schedule, David has managed to make time for a social life by participating in the game club and playing drums at a local church for two years. Upon graduation, David plans on working at Locust Street which was once his internship and now his full time job in Carlinville. In addition to his job, he still plans on attending school and pursuing an MBA

at Fontbonne University next fall. From there he aspires to obtain a PhD and teach at a university. Looking back on his undergraduate career, David recalls many memories, his worst being first semester freshman year when he was stuck with an incompatible roommate and had two writing intensive English courses, (which happened to be his weak point) and in turn struggled academically. He fondly recalls his best memory as building relationships with his professors in and out of his major department. When prompted to give any advice to fellow Blackburnians he encouraged them not to get discouraged when they face struggles in the classroom. It is his belief you can get through any class if you put in the work and utilize the resources available. Let's all wish David luck as he embarks on the exciting journey of life after Blackburn.

Lindsey Zerrusen

by Sydney Walsh

Lindsey Zerrusen is a Biology major and Chemistry minor currently working as the teaching assistant in the Biology Department. She will be attending the University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine in the fall to work toward her goal of being a veterinarian working mainly with large animals in a rural clinic.

Her most memorable college experience is one that is recent. She is a tutor for the Zoology lab and Dr. Zalisko asked her if she had any animals to bring into lab. Lindsey ended up bringing in two goats and a bunny. After the lab was over Dr. Zalisko let the animals stay in the lab for a week in which they went

around head butting everything and crying.

Lindsey changed from a pre-health to pre-vet track about a year and a half ago because she knew that she would not be happy as a physician for the rest of her life; veterinary medicine has always been her dream.

Lindsey is sad to see this chapter of her life end but is excited to see what is next. Lindsey has learned a lot about herself in college and has become much more independent. Lindsey had some advice for those she is leaving behind at Blackburn: "I know you hear it all the time, but enjoy your time at Blackburn. It really does go by so fast!"

Sarah Sudkamp

by Christian Gragnano

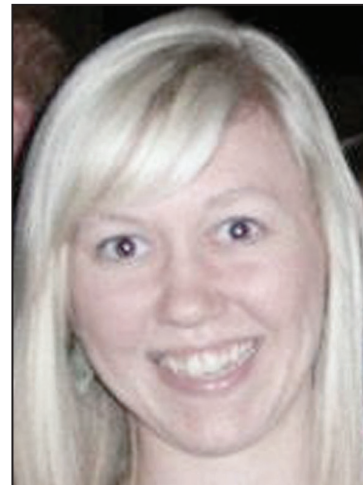
Meet senior and soon to be Blackburn alum, Sarah Sudkamp. Sarah is an Elementary Education major with a concentration in English/language arts and social science. She has been very faithful to the Education office in the work program, staying there three and a half years. This past semester, however, she was forced to part ways with the education office as she began student teaching 2nd grade. Sarah was involved in other activities on campus beyond school and the work program as she participated in the Newman Club.

When recollecting her time at Blackburn, she particularly remembers her first few weeks here as the most memorable because of new student orientation and all the new people she met. She also affectionately recalls a fun summer working in the Ed office with Lindsey Leach.

Upon graduation, Sarah

will begin teaching fifth grade at Cisne Middle School in Cisne, IL. This is a dream come true for Sarah. Sarah has always loved school since childhood and has imagined herself being a teacher for as long as she can remember. The professors and Education Department have only enhanced that interest as she feels ready and well equipped to enter the work force. Moreover, she feels with working in the Education office for three and a half years and student teaching this past semester that she has already been working.

Through her four year journey at Blackburn Sudkamp has enjoyed her time and advises all students to have fun while they're here. Her parting words and last bit of wisdom to pass on to the Blackburn community before she leaves is that if you're nice to people, you'll succeed. Let's all wish Sarah good luck as she begins a new chapter of her life.



ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF RESPECTIVE STUDENTS

Samantha Yoder (top left), David Bone (bottom left) Lindsey Zerrusen (above left) and Sarah Sudkamp (above right) will all graduate this year.

Diplomas, caps, and gowns! Oh my!

by Kayla Koyne

Many people worry about their graduation. Common fears include falling off the stage, tripping while making the walk across the stage, or ripping their gown. While there cannot be a guarantee that something won't happen to you during graduation, rest assured that if one of your fears does come true, you will not be alone.

Current student Debra Wilson: "When I graduated High School, they crammed what felt like the entire town plus more into our tiny gym for the ceremony. Having a "W" last name sucked because I was one of the last ones to walk. So by the time I was up to the stage I was more than ready to get my diploma. My shoes were uncomfortable and I decided that by then I didn't care what happened, so behind the curtain I took off my shoes and knee highs. When my name was called, I walked across the stage barefoot and

got quite a few dirty looks from some of our teachers and counselors while others were laughing because they had lectured us throughout practice about how we could not wear flip flops or sneakers...but they never said that I couldn't go barefoot!"

Blackburn alum and staff member Donisha Clemons: "My senior year here at Blackburn College I was pregnant and had a due date of May 6th. The whole year my advisor Jolonda and I were trying to come up with a plan of how I was going to walk across the stage and receive my degree on May 8th. I planned for an induction on April 29th to ensure that I wouldn't have any surprises but my daughter was too small and I had to take the chance of waiting. On the week of graduation it was insisted that I roll across in a wheel chair just so my water wouldn't break, but on the day of graduation I came

in with my graduation outfit and heels ready to go. Jolonda called me panicking, stating how the wheel chair was going to be at the end of the ramp waiting on me. On May 8th I walked across the stage, my water did not break and the entire faculty, staff, alums and board of trustees rooted me on. This was one of my biggest accomplishments and I can never forget seeing the look on everyone's smiling faces and giving me thumbs up."

Current student Larra Brogdon: "When my friends and I graduated from Hoopeston we threw our caps with excitement. The only problem was that my friend Juan's got lodged in the rafters of the gymnasium, and as far as I know, remains there to this day."

Don't sweat it if your upcoming graduation doesn't go off without a hitch. Remember the important thing: you've graduated!

Highlights from “Mentalist” performance

by Clayt Scheller

On Friday, April 26, Blackburn was paid a mind-bending visit by Christopher Carter, a self-described “freakout artist” and winner of Campus Activities Magazine’s “College Entertainer of the Year” award in 2005. In his mystifying, humorous and fast-paced performance in DCC Commons, he read audience members’ minds with uncanny accuracy.

As a warm-up, several audience members each chose a playing card at random. Carter asked them just a few questions and read their body language in response to those questions, quickly and correctly determining each card’s suit and number in one shot.

Carter then invited students D.J. Rudd and DeArryka Williams to the stage as assistants. After Carter duct-taped two silver dollars over his eyes as a blindfold, Williams handed him other strips of duct tape which he immediately slapped onto his face as further covering. On top of this, he fastened a proper blindfold on top of the tape to assure the audience that he couldn’t see.

At Carter’s request, Rudd wrote a word for him to guess (“Exit”) on a whiteboard and hid it so Carter couldn’t cheat. Even without any kind of clue, however, he easily guessed the word on his first try later in the

show.

Despite not seeing or even touching three items given to him by the audience – a vest, an Android phone and a bottle cap – Carter identified the bottle cap and phone almost immediately. (He somehow figured out that the vest was an article of clothing, but he mistook it for a pair of pants.)

For the next segment of the performance, each member of the audience wrote their name, a number and a personal question (often about someone sitting nearby) on an index card. The blinded Carter grabbed one random index card at a time, zeroed in on those who wrote them, determined their numbers’ significance and answered their occasionally embarrassing questions.

The magic continued as two participants, Debra Wilson and Haley Cohan, were issued fluorescent light bulbs graciously provided by the Physical Plant. Through the powers of hypnosis and suggestion, Carter told the two to imagine that beams of light were being projected from their eyes. When he told them to simultaneously look at the disconnected bulbs, they inexplicably lit up.

Carter promised that anybody who saw that act would never forget it. The same probably also applies to

Bewilderment is “What We’re Up Against”

by Clayt Scheller

On the evenings of Thursday, May 2 and Friday, May 3, a series of five one-act comedies written by Theresa Rebeck and directed by students of Advanced Directing (TH338) were performed in Bothwell Auditorium. The plays examined dysfunctional relationships between men and women, often in mystifying ways. I guess that’s pretty appropriate.

Directed by Andre Hoskins, the first of the plays was titled “Great to See You.” In it, married couple Jill and Rudy (Lindsey Smith and Owen Meredith) meet with Rudy’s ex-girlfriend Liza (Alexandra Martin). Tension and awkwardness gradually mount between Rudy and Liza – they fidget around in their chairs and grimace, but Jill remains oblivious to the drama which unfolds every time she leaves the table. The play climaxes with a fairly cathartic makeout session between the two former lovers.

Next up was “What We’re Up Against,” directed by Kenny James. I like the cut of this play’s jib: from the moment it starts, architects Ben (Shane Shoemate) and Stu (Sam Grey) let forth a blizzard of fast-paced, flagrantly sexist profanity in their anger at the off-stage work of their co-worker Eliza. I’m honestly not sure, but I think it might be an ironic look at machismo in the workplace. In any case, Shoemate and Grey did an

excellent job keeping the dialogue fluid.

Third was “Big Mistake,” directed by Alexandra Martin. Lorna and Annie (DeArryka Williams and Brittney Laird) walk into a bar, where they meet Lorna’s ex-boyfriend Bryan (Andre Hoskins) and his nerdy friend Paul (Kenny James). A nameless bartender (Becca Wales) observes as the two groups get together and engage in mercurial conversation, finally calling them to order after each duo take turns simultaneously voicing their grievances with the other. In the aftermath of the heated exchange, Annie and Paul somehow set up a date. Seriously here – how do relationships even work?

Owen Meredith’s take on “The Contract,” a funny commentary on the “glass ceiling,” began after a 15-minute intermission. Desperate actress Tami (Lisa Knight) must carefully react to volatile agent Phil (Jesse Medina) if she hopes to land a job in Hollywood. Phil is manipulative, impatient, angry, egomaniacal and unpredictable; the only way Tami can placate him is to “let him win” the interview. The dialogue between the two is oddly compelling – Phil seems on the verge of exploding at any given moment and it’s difficult to look away.

I’m going to level with you – I genuinely have no idea what to make of the final play,



“Katie and Frank.” Directed by September Stanton, Katie and Frank (Justina Smiley and Clement Serrano) are a married couple who have seen better days. Both seem somewhat unstable – Katie frequently confides to her sock puppet “therapist” and Frank barely listens to her, preferring instead to worry about their lack of toothpaste. Among other things, their recent economic hardships have strained their relationship to a dangerous extent. Katie buys a gun – a process which she describes as absurdly easy – and points it at Frank until he agrees to return his mother’s phone call. Serrano delivered the funniest line of the evening (“I feel strongly about this,” in response to the toothpaste shortage), but apart from that the play was completely bewildering.

Owing to the end-of-the-year crunch, audiences were small (maybe a dozen people attended on Thursday), but those who did attend these five plays were in for a strange and memorable experience.



Lindsey Leach and Kenny James performing in “Urinetown.” Leach will also perform in the Muni’s summer production of “Peter Pan.”

Blackburn students selected as summer Muni performers

by Kayla Koyne

Two of Blackburn’s very own are starring in musicals this summer at the Springfield Muni. Senior theater major Reggie Guyton has been cast as James Early in “Dreamgirls” and as a homeless man in “RENT.” “Dreamgirls” will run from July 12-14 and 17-21 and “RENT” runs September 6-7, 12-14, and 19-21. In addition to Guyton, sophomore Education major Lindsey Leach will star as Wendy in “Peter Pan” on August 2-4 and 7-11.

Guyton shared his excitement for his upcoming roles: “Since I’ve come to Blackburn, I have been in four school musicals. I also have done summer rep shows as well including ‘Annie’ and ‘Beauty and the Beast.’ This summer will be the second time I’ve been cast at the Muni.” Most thrilling for him is “being considered for roles that are both what I want and are substantial parts. Doing

‘Dreamgirls’ gives me a chance to experiment with a character type I’ve not played with as much and I’m excited to see where it goes.” He plans to continue being involved in plays, stating, “I don’t think I could not be a part of a theatrical experience. I’ve been doing it for too long. It’s always been a sort of therapy to explore how a person or character thinks. You begin to see from a different perspective and suddenly your issues and problems become so small. You feel like you can take on anything after you’ve walked in your characters shoes.”

Equally as excited is Lindsey Leach: “I have been doing theater since 2003. My first show was “The Wizard of Oz” at the Muni. Since then, I have done tons of shows like ‘Les Misérables,’ ‘Annie,’ ‘Xanadu,’ ‘Hairspray,’ and more. Since coming to Blackburn, I have done three shows: ‘Xanadu,’ ‘Annie,’

and ‘Urinetown.’ I am SO excited to be playing Wendy this summer. Not only is it my first lead role out at Muni, but my dad, brother, and boyfriend, DJ Rudd, have all been cast in the show as well. I am so happy to get to spend the whole summer working on this show. I don’t really have any particular goals pertaining to theater. Theater was never something I wanted to do for a career or anything. It is just something I love. I hope to continue doing community theater for the rest of my life. The relationships I build while doing a show are the greatest. As time consuming as theater is, I wouldn’t trade it for anything.”

Come show your support and enjoy any of these wonderful plays at the Muni this summer! For more information, or to purchase tickets, go to: <http://themuni.org> or call (217) 793-MUNI.

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Dear Seniors,

The members of The 'Burnian would like to congratulate you on all of your accomplishments and say thank you for all the contributions you have made during your time here at Blackburn.

As you make your way into the world to be underpaid, underappreciated and old and fat, just remember what you

have gained from Blackburn: an iron stomach from Ding food, an appreciation for being able to shower without shoes and being able to say "beaver" with a straight face. Just kidding! But seriously.

We hope that you take away many fond memories and lessons from Blackburn and do great things with your future. In the words of Dr.

Seuss, "You're off to great places, today is your day! Your mountain is waiting... so get on your way!"

Best of luck and keep reading The 'Burnian as alums.

Dueces!

Co-editors Traci Kamp, Haley Welch, and Assistant Editor Taylor Hess

The Voice of Dissent

Senior History major Adam Trovillion addresses the graduating class of 2013 (and whomever else it may concern):



It is my opinion that, like most cherished ceremonial rites, the commencement address is a custom of dubious merit. Invariably predictable, inconsequential, and trite, commencement speeches are examples of glitzy but precarious rhetorical architecture, devoid of useful purpose and constructed upon a hollow foundation of decrepit platitudes. Commencement speakers typically spend their potentially valuable time at the podium encouraging graduating seniors to pursue lives of personal fulfillment (as though Americans need to be reminded to gratify themselves) and affirming that they possess the unique aptitudes required to solve a wide array of pressing but vaguely defined societal ills. Of course, it would be far more efficient to simply ask graduating seniors to spend a few moments silently telling themselves whatever they want to hear in lieu of a formal speech, but nevertheless this inane tradition persists.

Occasionally a commencement speaker will attempt to imbue the proceedings with real meaning and significance. When Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Chris Hedges was invited to deliver the commencement address at Rockford College in the wake of America's invasion of Iraq in 2003, he delivered an impassioned and prescient denunciation of war and empire—or at least he attempted to do so. Anticipating an insipid "go out and make your mark" sendoff, the promising young scholars collecting their degrees from Rockford College responded by indignantly booing, verbally abusing, and physically intimidating Hedges for the

transgression of speaking out against a criminal war that would eventually claim the lives of hundreds of thousands of Iraqi civilians.

The graduating seniors at Rockford College expected Chris Hedges to tell them what they wanted to hear, to pleasantly and innocuously wish them well on their journeys through life. When he instead told them what they needed to hear, reminding them of the horrific suffering and violence perpetrated in their names throughout the world, they reacted by exposing how little their educations are worth.

Although it's not a popular theme for commencement speeches, the unfortunate fact is that as Americans, all of us—myself included—are complicit in the perpetuation of evil, in the creation of human misery and the wanton destruction of human life. Although most of us operate in willful ignorance of this fact, we are all collaborators—through both conscious action as well as passive compliance—in the maintenance of economic systems predicated on exploitation and greed; in the desolation of the natural environment; in the preservation of an economic caste system which relegates disproportionate numbers of black and brown Americans to desperate lives of poverty, brutality, imprisonment, and despair; and in the endless expansion of the warfare state with all its insidious manifestations—the War on Terror, the War on Drugs, and the ever-escalating use of drone warfare against the people of Pakistan, Somalia, Yemen, and Afghanistan.

We feel no guilt as we purchase clothing and

electronics produced in sweatshops and hellish Third World factories where laborers are subjected to long hours, unsafe working conditions, and even physical intimidation and sexual assault at the hands of their bosses (as I type this, the death toll from a collapsed garment factory in Dhaka, Bangladesh has exceeded 700). We proudly cast our votes for politicians who promise to keep the wheels of America's petroleum-guzzling war machines, greased with the flesh and blood of countless innocents, perpetually spinning in the name of national security. We feel no guilt as we insatiably devour the world's resources, building a society upon needless garbage and waste while we, the beneficiaries of centuries of colonialist exploitation, shake our heads in amazement that the global South has not yet figured out how to provide for its own people. The list goes on and on.

Of course, considering the entrenched structures of corporate capitalism and militarism, and considering that the American people have also been systematically victimized for decades by a small cadre of wealthy elites who engineer the outsourcing of high-paying jobs, the loosening up of worker safety regulations, and vicious cuts to the social safety net, it is extremely difficult if not impossible for individuals to avoid some level of complicity. This does not absolve us of responsibility, however. What commencement speakers nationwide need to tell impending graduates is that true fulfillment begins and ends with an unyielding commitment to combating injustice, that it is their moral obligation to acknowledge their collusion in tragic crimes against humanity, to resist the seductive amusement of consumer culture, and to oppose those systems and institutions which regard human lives as expendable commodities and "collateral damage." The stakes have never been higher.

Two thumbs up for Westboro!

by Traci Kamp

The Westboro Baptist Church (WBC) is located in Topeka, Kansas and has approximately 40 members, most of whom are related to leader, Fred Phelps. Though small, the church receives extensive media attention due to its protests of funerals of American soldiers and victims of hate crimes with signs that read "God hates fags," "Thank God for dead soldiers," and other distasteful slurs. WBC's website offers explanations of these slurs, parodies of songs with their own lyrical beliefs interjected, and even recorded sermons.

These things considered, a lot of people denounce the WBC. I am not one of those people. I *like* the Westboro Baptist Church.

As a representative of the "B" in the LGBT* community, I understand why my adoration of the WBC is alarming. The explanation I offer is a simple one. Groups like the WBC motivate people to take a step forward in support of what hate groups oppose. Consider the anti-civil rights protests in the 1960s. These protests were

on a larger scale, represented a larger population, and motivated lawmakers to grant African-Americans equal rights. The protests held by the WBC are small, frequent and attract media attention. If a group so small is getting attention and putting a foul taste in the mouths of those who encounter them, I think we can expect great things to come as a result of the WBC protests -- but not in its favor.

As a Christian, I admire the WBC because it gives me a stronger sense of my faith. Through introspection, I learned exactly what I believe. I believe in a loving God who accepts His children as sinners and sees no one sin as greater than another.

What I believe is the WBC is a reminder of our past. We look at the WBC as extreme, ridiculous and obsolete. My hope for the group is that it will drive us forward; that we will overcome and not relapse; that we will find ourselves through the answers to the questions it raises; that we are human and, though imperfect, capable of great things.

A true college education

by Sarah Collman

College students know how to cook almost anything in the microwave. We know how to turn an article on Wikipedia into "our own words." And let's be honest, the best places to hide alcohol. We're paying thousands for a college education, but the things we really learn are far from being academic.

The first thing we learn in college is that what happened in high school counts for nothing. Most of what we were taught is wrong, such as when teachers told us that we cannot use "I" in papers. What our friendships and relationships were like is not really how they work in the real world. We thought we wanted to grow up. We were idiots. We were molded into drones that marched the hallways without questioning what we were being told. Once we hit college that mold was shattered. In college, we find out who we truly are.

Most of what we learn is composed of things like figuring out which teachers will let you get away with murder and separating them from the ones you would never cross. We learn that it is a great idea to use any browser except Internet Explorer, unless you like relentless waiting... and waiting. We learn how to recycle our clothes until we absolutely HAVE to do

laundry, and then when we do laundry we learn that if we leave our clothes in the washer for a second too long people turn into jerks who leave our wet clothes sprawled out for everyone to see.

A huge concept that we learn in college is how to bullshit. We become masters at bullshitting everything. We bullshit papers and tests, relationships and friendships, and (being honest again) we bullshit our level of drunkenness. What it comes down to is that we are over-involved, and we have no intention of sacrificing any aspect of our lives. In the end everything comes out about half the quality of what we could have done if we weren't so busy living.

Seniors, you may have come to realize that you have essentially been paying thousands and thousands of dollars for a piece of paper. But even if that is the attitude that you hold, there are some very important lessons you have learned. I don't just mean the ones you were graded on, no. Over the years you have learned that not everything works out because you want it to. Whether that be academically or socially, it teaches a valuable lesson because at the end of the day you know you have more to gain than you have to lose.

Spring 2013 Sports wrap-up

By Christian Gragnano

If character is the corollary of losing, then it’s safe to conclude Blackburn has enough for the entire conference. Excluding the few remaining games baseball has left on the schedule, Blackburn has posted only one winning record, three 9th place finishes, two 8th place finishes, three 7th place finishes, and one 6th place finish, which contributed to an overall mark in the athletic program of 52-139-2. Blackburn has become the official jester of the SLIAC.

Yes, it was a disappointing year that many of us athletes would like to forget. However, the upside to our lowly status is immense, and I would admonish each athlete returning next year in their respective sport to remember exactly what happened and

how it felt. For these very memories should serve as constant reminders during the off-season while in the gym, or the weight room, or the film room of what we were, but not who we are going to be. Next year is a fresh start, though many schools will still view us the same, we need to hit the reset button in our minds and approach the sport with a winning mentality. As distance running legend Steve Prefontaine once said, “There may be someone out there who can beat me, but they’re going to have to bleed to do it.” Change is never easy, for it stretches and strains the soul, but it is our only option if we are to escape the role of the conference jester who willingly accepts character over victories.

Brianna Markel

By Ray Johnson

Brianna Markel is a Criminal Justice major and Psychology minor from Wood River, Illinois. She is also the Assistant Security Manager. Markel loves to play softball. Her freshman year at Blackburn was her best and most memorable as the Lady Beavers went 7-2 and Markel was named conference player of the year.

This summer Markel will be starting an internship with the Madison County jail and she is hoping to land a permanent job with them.

“I’ve always wanted to be a super hero, even as a little girl. I want to live that dream and stop violence from spreading. At the same time

I’m terrified. School is all I’ve ever known. It’s crazy to think that after summer I won’t be returning to school. In a way, that’s kind of exciting though.”

“The responsibility of being on your own and that your teammates are the best family anyone could ask for” are some of the most important lessons learned in college, according to Markel.

“To my softball teammates, I love you girls. You will always hold a special place in my heart. You’ve truly made my years here at BC the best four years ever. Keep moving on and do what you do. Improve. Fight. Win. Always remember to bring your “A-GAME.”

Rashonda Willis

By Ray Johnson

Rashonda Willis, known as “Boom,” is a business management major and economics minor from Mexico, Missouri. Willis played both softball and basketball for the Beavers all four years at Blackburn. She served as a pinch-runner and pinch-hitter and was an outstanding starting guard for the Lady Beavers.

When asked what her intentions after graduation are, Willis responded, “I want to be in the business field with a concentration in sales, marketing, and advertising.” Willis went on to add, “I plan on being a manager (entry level) in a progressive company, then work my way up.”

Willis says that her most memorable experience

while in college was when her “basketball mom” coach Jen Windmiller became the assistant coach and she was there for her whenever in need. “She helped me change my overall outlook on basketball and college itself, and then I brought my “A-Game” said Willis.

When asked about making the transition from the college life into the “real world” Willis said: “well I’m pretty in tuned with the real world and have been since I was a junior so I am ready.”

“The most important thing I learned is that when you graduate at 21-22 years old, you will not have the same mind set as you did when you were only 18. Your freshman and sophomore years are crucial so take them seriously.”

Blackburn appoints new athletic director

By Christian Gragnano



PHOTO COURTESY OF PR
Physical Education professor Angie Morenz has been selected as Blackburn’s new AD

After a year long wait and hundreds of applicants, the search has ended where it began—here, right in our own backyard at Blackburn. Sports Management Professor Angie Morenz is our new Athletic Director.

The hiring of new AD Angie Morenz will hopefully usher in a new era of success that has been far too foreign to Blackburn as of late. I hold high hopes and great expectations for AD Morenz as I believe she is well equipped to right the wayward ship of athletics here at Blackburn. So why do I hold so much stock in Morenz? First off, she’s a 1997 graduate of Blackburn, a three sport athlete (basketball, volleyball, and softball), and a recent hall of fame inductee of Blackburn athletics. Not only is she familiar with the terrain of Blackburn, she also understands the inner-workings and challenges of athletics being a player first, and now a professor turned AD on the other side of things. Moreover, considering she is a hall of famer, she has tasted success at Blackburn and will have the know-how to guide us back to prominence.

Not only does Morenz possess the credentials, she also has the intangibles that make for a successful formula. “My

passion is athletics, Blackburn athletics,” said Morenz. She further added, “my goal is that we are competitive on every team and qualify for conference tournaments. We will get there by enhancing the student athlete experience and finding the right kind of recruits.” Her unbridled passion and zeal coupled with a vision are what will make for a promising future.

There are certainly obstacles Blackburn must overcome on the long road back to relevance, but the foundation has been laid. Morenz has identified things

that need upgrading to make our school more attractive: “It needs to be more aesthetically pleasing with better facilities, amenities, and a bigger budget.”

In the face of it all, the transformation of Blackburn athletics is not something that will happen over night or even in the career of most athletes currently enrolled. Be that as it may, the central piece of our transformation has taken place and beginning July 1st 2013 (when Morenz assumes the job duties of AD) Blackburn will officially begin a new era.

Caitlyn Beaird

By Ray Johnson

Caitlyn Beaird is a graduating Graphic Communications major and Business Administration minor from Astoria, Illinois. Beaird works as an assistant in Blackburn’s public relations office. “I would love to be director of a public relations department for a large company someday. That is my ultimate goal,” she said in a recent interview.

Beaird had a memorable volleyball career serving as a lady Beaver all four years. In fact, she says her most memorable college experience was her volleyball senior night: “I could just feel my four years at BC coming to an end. I’m very sad to leave, but also excited to start the next chapter of my life”.

“In college I learned how to take criticism. There will also be people in the world who won’t view the world the same way as you do; even so it is our differences that can bring new ideas to the surface.”

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